

Fort Leavenworth,  
Building # 6  
624 Scott Avenue  
Leavenworth  
Leavenworth County  
Kansas

HABS NO. KS-53-H

HABS  
KANS,  
52-LEAV,  
1-H-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

FORT LEAVENWORTH, BUILDING # 6

HABS No.KS-53-H

Location: 624 Scott Avenue, Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth County,  
Kansas

USGS Leavenworth, Kansas-Missouri Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 15,334830,4357090

Present Owner: U.S.Department of the Army

Present Occupant: Col. D.L. Whiteside

Present Use: Field Officers Quarters

Significance: Building # 6 was erected as a residence for an officer on the staff of the Army of the Missouri, like building # 7, (1868) next door. It is probable that building # 6 remained a residence of Department of the Missouri officers until the Department was moved to St. Louis, Missouri in 1890. By the early twentieth century, the quarters became a residence for officers associated with the newly revitalized Army Service School. In addition, the erection of Building # 6 on Scott Avenue suggests an interest in developing Scott Avenue as the residential street for the highest ranking officers. The location on the east side of Scott Avenue, with one elevation over-looking the Missouri River and another facing a park, demonstrates a conscious effort of physical planning for that period. Architecturally, Building # 6 is an original composition. The most apparent influences are Queen Anne, Eastlake, Georgian and vernacular. The porch is the most notable feature of the house, the two story vernada having had a long history at Fort Leavenworth, first appearing in the late 1830's on the Post Commander's House (Building # 17).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date(s) of erection: There are a variety of dates given for the erection of Building # 6. The Army Inventory of Historic Properties records "1890 or earlier." Elvid Hunt in his History of Fort Leavenworth lists 1879 (p. 264), as does Henry Shindler in his manuscript. Building # 6 does not appear on Wilhelm Dammeier's "Bird's Eye view of Fort Leavenworth" nor a map, "Post of Fort Leavenworth" both dated 1881. The Fort Leavenworth Quarters Research File lists residents beginning in 1884. Henry Schindler, in notes on his draft copy of the "History of Fort Leavenworth" noted that Maj. George Bell was the first resident of Building # 6, which

coincides with the Museum 's residents file. Thus, One can say conclusively that Building # 6 was not built before 1881 nor after 1883. The building date is usually recorded as c. 1883.

2. Architect: Although the original drawings have not been found, building plans during this period were usually supplied to the local quartermaster by the Quartermaster General's Office in Washington, D.C.

3. Original and subsequent owners: Building # 6 was originally owned by the U.S. Department of War, known as the Department of the Army since 1947.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown.

5. Original plans & construction: No original plans were found for Building # 6. However, drawings of the first and second floor plans are located at the Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH), Fort Leavenworth (see Supplemental Materials # 1- 3).

6. Alterations & additions: An inspection of Building # 6 indicates that there have been no major alterations to the original plan. Building # 3 built, according to local tradition in 1883, has the same floor plan as Building # 6. The plan similarity signifies that both were built from the same standard plan which has not been altered significantly on Building # 6. The only apparent change is on the interior where a bathroom was added in 1916.

B. Historical Context:

Throughout the nineteenth Century, housing was continuously one of the major problems facing the army. At Fort Leavenworth, housing shortages and low standards persisted even after fifty years of the Post's existence. At mid century, with the trend towards higher standards of professionalism with the army, a school was established at Fort Leavenworth. Locating the School of Application for Cavalry and Infantry taxed the limited availability of housing, forcing appropriations from Congress for permanent and adequate housing at Fort Leavenworth. Building # 6 built in 1883, was one of the first of many waves of residential development associated with the new School. It was built as a staff officer's residence for the Army's Department of the Missouri. The first officer to reside in Building # 6 (in 1884) was working in the Subsistence Division of the Department of the Missouri (Schlindler, manuscript and Fort Leavenworth Quarters Research File). The second resident, in 1885, worked in the Office of the Assistant Inspector General (Green's

Directory, 1885). It is probable that the residence remained in use by the Department until the transfer of the Department of the Missouri to St. Louis, Missouri in 1890. By the early twentieth century, after the revitalization of the Army Service School, the quarters was used as a residence for officers associated with the school. The Fort Leavenworth Museum Quarters Research File shows that a majority of the residents of Building # 6 were officers in the infantry, ranking major or above. The file also shows that from 1913 to 1919 Building # 6 served as the residence of the Post Commander. Today, the residence continues to be a residence of officers attached to the Command School.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Building # 6, stylistically, is a composite of many influences including Queen Anne, Georgian, East Lake and vernacular. A 1905 photograph shows Building # 6 with the ornamentation of the porch and bay projection painted in two contrasting colors. The painted decorative effect along with the picturesque design of the two story bay and the central front gable dormer produce the character and feeling of the Queen Anne style popular at this time. In addition to this there are features that are Georgian inspired, such as the symmetrical front facade, the rectilinear windows with stone lintels and sills, and the materials of brick with a stone water table. The interior configuration follows a plan characteristic of Georgian Architecture consisting of a central hallway flanked by two parlors. This floor plan, although standardly used by the military, also had its origins in Georgian architecture. The two story porch, extending across the entire front facade, had by the early 1880's a long local tradition. As early as the 1830's a two story porch was recognized as a valuable asset if not a necessity in Kansas. In a letter dated 1837 Colonel Kearney, the Post Commander, wrote regarding changes to the Post Commanders house (Building 17):

I wish a porch to extend along the whole front of the house, a very great comfort and protector against the heat of the summer and the storms of the winter (Record Group 92, Box 539)

2. Condition of fabric: The interior of Building # 6 is in good condition as are the exterior porches. The masonry exterior walls, however, have been sand-blasted and are badly pitted in areas as a result.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Building # 6 is two story, five bay brick residence with a two story wood veranda across the main (east) facade. It consists of a main rectangular block that is symmetrical on the front facade with a rear service ell to the east. The dimensions are 44' x 58'.
2. Foundations: The foundation is of rock-faced limestone ashlar with a stone watertable that projects from the surface of the wall (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-3).
3. Walls: The brick house has running bond on the front (east) facade; this pattern extends around both the north and south corners to include the first story of the two story bay projections. Beyond the bay projections for the remainder of the north and south walls and the east elevation, the brick pattern is American bond consisting of seven rows of stretchers between rows of headers (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-3). The east end of the screen veranda on the east elevation has been enclosed and is now clapboard.
4. Structural system, framing: Building # 6 has a masonry structure surmounted by a wooden roof structure. The roof structure includes common rafters 2' 10" x 12" that are tied into the ridge of the roof with twelve to fourteen inch roof boards laid across the rafters. The attic itself is an open space with a box stairway leading to the second floor.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: The west (front) elevation's wooden, two story veranda is the major decorative feature of Building # 6 (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-1). The two tier porch as a long tradition at Fort Leavenworth. It first appears on Building # 17, the first Commander's House, which was built in the mid 1830's. Col. Kearny in a letter dated 1837, concerning the design of the Commander's House advises Washington that, porches are a valuable asset in the summer and in the winter (Record Group 92). On Building # 6, the two tier porch extends the entire length of the west elevation; the ground level of the porch as a high ceiling, approximately ten feet, producing an expanse suitable for a grand entrance; the second level is approximately eight feet in height and was originally used as a sleeping porch in warm weather. The center portion of the porch on both levels projects two feet mimicing the brick gable projection of the main facade. Chamfered posts support the porch at both levels, there are eight full posts across the front and sides and two attached posts where the porch joins the brick facade (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-2). Where the porch projects in the center, the posts double in number, forming a slight passageway two

posts deep on either side of the entrance opening. The same pattern follows on the second story where a balcony projects. Balastrades encircle the porch at both levels and consist of upper and lower rails with wood balusters of cubes separated by rings. The resulting effect is a bold geometric one. The roof, over the center projecting section, protrudes above the asphalt shed roof of the rest of the porch, and is surmounted by a gable dormer. The dormer contains a lunette window (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-1). The rear 'L' shaped porch has an asphalt shed roof and is nestled in the southeast corner formed by the junction of the main house and rear ell. The screen porch with a wood balstrade of slender balusters between upper and lower rails has square porch supports with diagonal braces between the posts and ceiling of the porch. The east end of the porch has been enclosed and is covered with clapboard siding. It serves as a food storage pantry off the kitchen. Underneath this porch is an open passageway, with a door that accesses into the basement.

6. Chimneys: There are two chimneys on the north/south roof ridge with stone coping. The south chimney has a flat rectangular brick band near the top (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-3); the north chimney has new brick work.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The front door on the west elevation leads into a narrow vestibule which in turn leads into the main stairhall. The front door is a set of wood double doors; each door has one vertical rectangular raised panel over one smaller rectangular panel. Across the top of the door is a rectangular three light transom (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-1). The door knob and plate are plain brass. There are two doors on the east elevation off the screen porch, both of which have stone lintels. One leads directly into the kitchen and the other leads into the east end of the main stairhall. At the basement level there is a door located in the open walkway underneath the east porch. It is a wood panel door.

b. Windows: All the windows are one over one, double hung sash with wooden frames and stone lintels and sills. The windows in the stone basement have brick segmental arches (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-4).

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Building # 6 has an asphalt hipped roof with the roofs of porches and two story bays attached, giving

the appearance of a complex roof line. The two story bay projections that abut the north and south elevations have asphalt covered shed roofs and protrude above the hipped roof of the main block. The two story porch across the front facade has an asphalt shed roof attached at the eaves of the main roof. At the entrance, the roof, like the porch, projects forward. The roof of this center projection also protrudes above the rest of the porch roof, forming a two story pavilion-like entrance. Above the higher center roof section is a gable dormer with a lunette window (see HABS photos # KS-53-H-2 & 3).

b. Cornice and eaves: The roof has a large overhang with a simple molded cornice board. In the gable ends of the main block, to either side of the extended bays, is board and batten framing with a decorative, cut-out border. At either end is a scroll bracket. In the corners of the hood covering the first story of the projecting bays are diagonal brackets at ninety degree angles with a pendant where the two on each side meet (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-2). In the roof line of the hipped roof of the pavilion porch are large, cut-out brackets which together form a curved arch (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-1).

c. Dormers: There is a gable peak dormer at the top of the hipped roof of the facade pavilion, with a lunette.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The interior is composed of two sections, the square main block with a narrow vestibule, a central hallway flanked by double parlors (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-5), and a rear service ell consisting of a butler's pantry, a rear stairway, kitchen and small food pantry. The second floor follows the same configuration as the first; the main block includes four bedrooms with a central large stairhall (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-7) and the rear ell contains two bathrooms, a servants room and rear stairway, connecting the servants room with the kitchen below. The basement follows the same configuration as the first and second floors.

2. Stairways: The single flight of stairs on the south wall of the main hall rises to the east. The banister at the second floor continues around to the west then to the south wall, encircling the stairwell. The newel posts is four feet five inches high. It consists of a round knob hand rest on a turned section; this is surmounted on a two inch wide faceted section which in turn rests on a cube whose upper corners are clipped and whose sides contain a centered flower rosette. Below this there are three flat rectilinear bands followed by a belt of convex molding. The central portion

contains a shaft that has four flutes in the center and chamfered corners, below this is a square base. The balustrade has balusters that have two turned sections separated by narrow turned sections with square ends where the baluster joins the baluster and tread. The unpainted treads are single pine boards whose sides have a bold cut-out floral design. Wall stringer has beaded molding (see HABS photos # KS-53-H-5 & 7). The rear stairway connecting the second floor servants room and the kitchen is enclosed; stair treads are single pine board.

3. Flooring: The first floor has narrow oak boards in all rooms except the service area (i.e. the kitchen, pantries and service hall) which has vinyl sheeting. The second floor has two and a half to three inch wide pine boards, with the exception of two rooms which have the narrow oak board. The eight and three-quarters inch baseboard is uniform throughout the house, except in the service area. The baseboard, from the top, consists of two consecutive sections of cyma-recta molding, a rectangular flat section followed by a splayed edge resting on a flat two and a half inch rectangular section. At the floor there is a section of convex molding. Baseboards in the service area on both the first and second floors are plain.

4. Wall & ceiling finish: The walls throughout the house are wall board. Some exterior walls are still plaster. All rooms on the first floor have picture molding with a stucco wall finish above on the wall and on the ceiling (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-6).

5. Openings:

a. Doorways & doors: The vestibule double oak doors that lead into the main hallway have a single light over a raised panel. Doors have ten inch plain brass door plate and brass knob. The architrave molding matches the door and window moldings throughout the house with some variation. The molding is flat with four rows of raised, beaded molding at the center. The top corners of the doorway have squares containing consecutively smaller circles, similar to a bull's eye (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-5). The rest of the doors throughout the house, with a few exceptions, are four panel doors with raised interior panels. Each raised panel has a molding around the perimeter consisting of three consecutive sections of cyma reversa moldings (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-7). The door to the north front parlor is five panel. There is a sliding door between the south parlor and the library. The sliding door is a six panel

wood door with three rectangular vertical panels over three smaller ones. The panels have raised interior panels; the molding around the interior perimeter of the six panels consists of three consecutive sections of cyma reversa molding. Doors in the service area are four panel; the architraves are plain, rectangular doorways that are four and a half inches wide, flat with four rows of raised beaded molding at the center. The top corners of the doorway have squares containing consecutively smaller circles. The rest of the doors throughout the house with a few exceptions are four panel doors with raised interior panels. Each raised panel has molding around the perimeter consisting of three consecutive sections of cyma reversa moldings. The door to the north front parlor is a five panel door and there is a sliding door between the south parlor and the library. The sliding door is a six panel wood door with three rectangular vertical panels over three smaller rectangular panels. The panels have raised interior panels; the molding around the interior perimeter of the six panels consists of three consecutive sections of cyma reversa. Doors in service area are four panel; the molding is plain and four and a half inches wide.

b. Windows: The windows on the first floor have elaborate window frames. Molding surrounding the windows matches that of the door frames. The window trim on the first floor windows extends from the top of the window to the floor. There is no transom above but there is a rectangular horizontal panel in the area below the window sill. The molding around the panel is cyma reversa. At the base of the window is a plain baseboard with a beveled edge. On the second floor, the molding around the windows extends only to the window sill. In the service wing, the window trim, like the doors, is plain. The projecting bay in the parlor has recessed, molded wood panels below the windows (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-6).

6. Decorative features & trim: There is a large cast iron warming oven within the radiator of the butler's pantry. The oven has double doors with a raised floral design. There are four fireplaces, one each in the first floor parlors, in the dining room and in the library. The wood fireplace in the south front parlor differs from the other three in style. It has two pilasters on high square bases; the rectangular frieze above the firebox has a shallow arch. The mantle shelf is a plain rectangular one. The firebox and hearth are faced with pink and green glaze tile. The other three fireplaces are also simple wood ones. They are rectangular with a plain rectangular mantle shelf. There are paired brackets supporting the mantle shelf at the two front corners. The firebox has a cast iron cover with floral decoration in relief (see HABS photo # KS-53-H-6). Two of the fireboxes are faced with turquoise tile; one has pink and green tile.

7. Hardware: Building # 6 has a variety of hardware. Dispersed throughout the house are some decorative brass door knobs with filagree floral knobs and plates. The door pull of the sliding door between the first floor and library and parlor is a triangular one with a recessed circular area that serves as the handle lock, there is a key hold within this area. The pull along with the stile lock plate on the side of the door are brass with a floral filagree design. The front and the vestibule doors have plain brass knobs and ten inch plates. There is one porcelain knob located in the kitchen. Other knobs appear to be post World War II aluminum and brass knobs.

8. Mechanical equipment: Building # 6 has a steam-heating system with cast iron radiators in every room. The house is air conditioned by window units.

D. Site:

Building # 6 was erected on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River (see HABS photo # KS-53-18). To the south is Building # 7, a picturesque Gothic Cottage. To the north is the Memorial Chapel, which is similar to Building # 7 in style and character. Wilhelm Dammeier's "Bird's Eye View of Fort Leavenworth, 1881," shows the early relationship of Building # 6 to its surroundings (see Supplemental Material # 4). Today, Building # 6 is much more plain than it appears in a 1905 photograph. The photograph shows Building # 6 with the porch and bays painted in two contrasting colors, emphasizing the ornamentation of these architectural features. The house is also shown with shutters, producing an over all effect that is more picturesque and therefore more compatible with the buildings that flank it. The 1905 photograph also shows numerous shade trees at the front elevation and in the triangular park across the street. Presently, there are not as many trees. The house has a narrow, informally landscaped front yard. Building # 6 has ample sunny side yards; a screen porch on the southeast elevation has a view of the Missouri River. There is a rear alley at the east elevation used also for parking.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings

Proposed Alterations to Building No. 6 into a duplex," September 1952, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas (show schematic of first and second floors).

"Floor Plans," of the first and second floors, February 17, 1948, DEH.

"Renovate Kitchen," August 1, 1952, DEH (shows interior elevations and construction details.

B. Early Views:

Dammeier, Wilhelm, "Bird's Eye View of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas." Fort Leavenworth: U.S. Department of the Missouri, 1881. Fort Leavenworth Historical Museum (lithograph).

Photograph: "Arsenal Avenue (now Scott Avenue) looking south," undated, Fort Leavenworth Museum, uncataloged photographs.

Photograph: West elevation, 1905, Fort Leavenworth Museum (same photograph used in the Real Property Records Book, DEH).

Photograph: "Miscellaneous Views- Fort Leavenworth," undated, Notebook- "Miscellaneous Views," 1-61 Volume, Fort Leavenworth Museum.

Photograph: Northwest corner of Memorial Chapel and north elevation of Building # 6, undated, Vertical File, "Fort Leavenworth-Photographs," Command and General Staff College Library, Fort Leavenworth.

C. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Colonel Kearny, Post Commander to Major T. Cross, Quartermaster General, 1837, Record Group 92, Box 539, Consolidated Correspondance File, 1794-1890, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives (concerning Commander's Quarters at Fort Leavenworth.

Fort Leavenworth Quarters Research File, "Quaters," Vertical File, Fort Leavenworth Museum.

Real Property Files, Department of Engineering and Housing, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

b. Secondary & unpublished sources:

Hunt, Elvid and Walter E. Lorence. History of Fort Leavenworth: 1829-1937, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas: Commander and General Staff College Press, 1937.

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Shindler, Henry. "History of Fort Leavenworth," (unpublished manuscript) Rare Books, CGSC Library, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

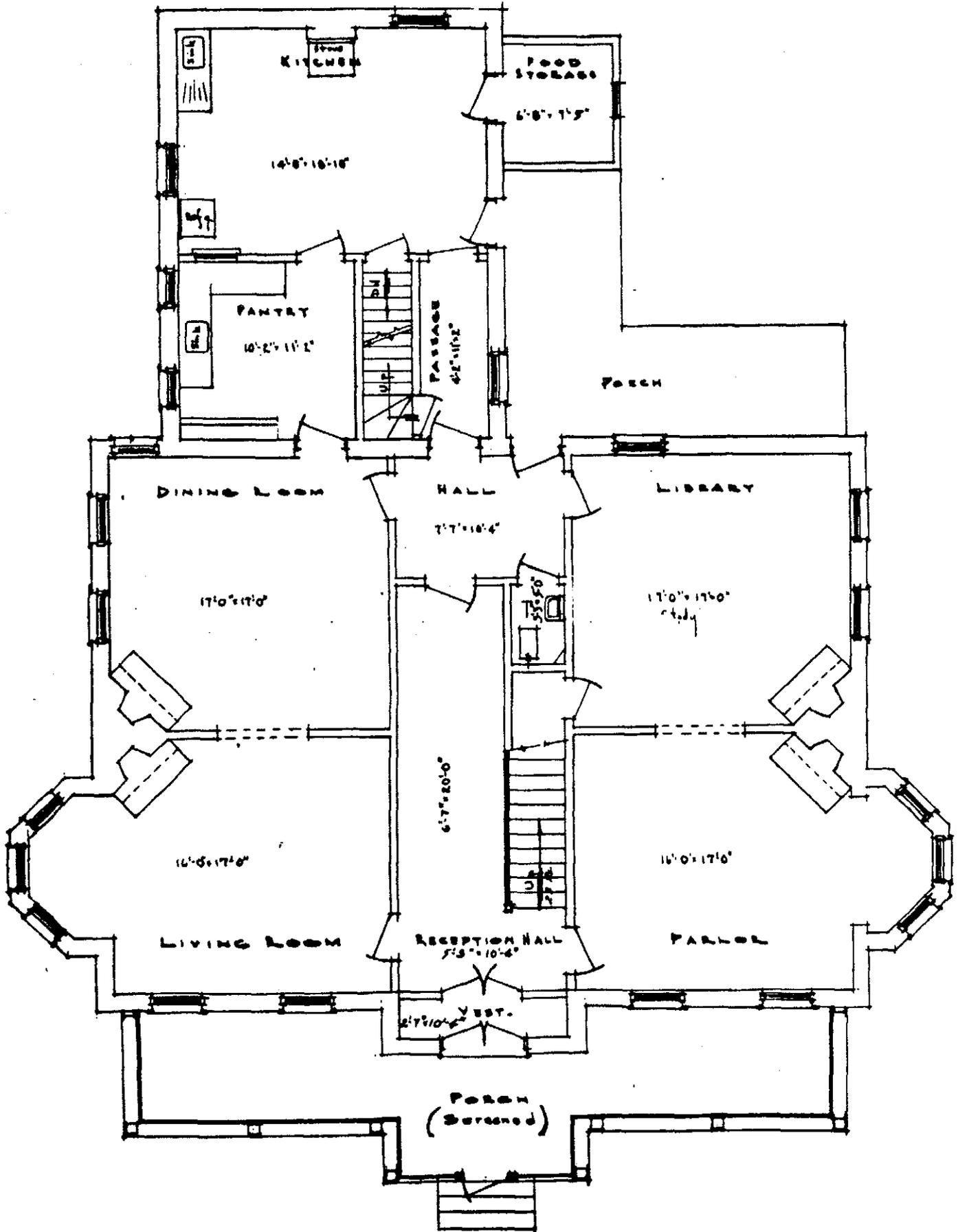
D. Likely Sources not yet investigated: More primary materials may exist in Record Group, Consolidated Correspondance Files, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

E. Supplemental Material: see attached.

Prepared By: Kristie Struble  
Project Historian  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
Summer 1985

#### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

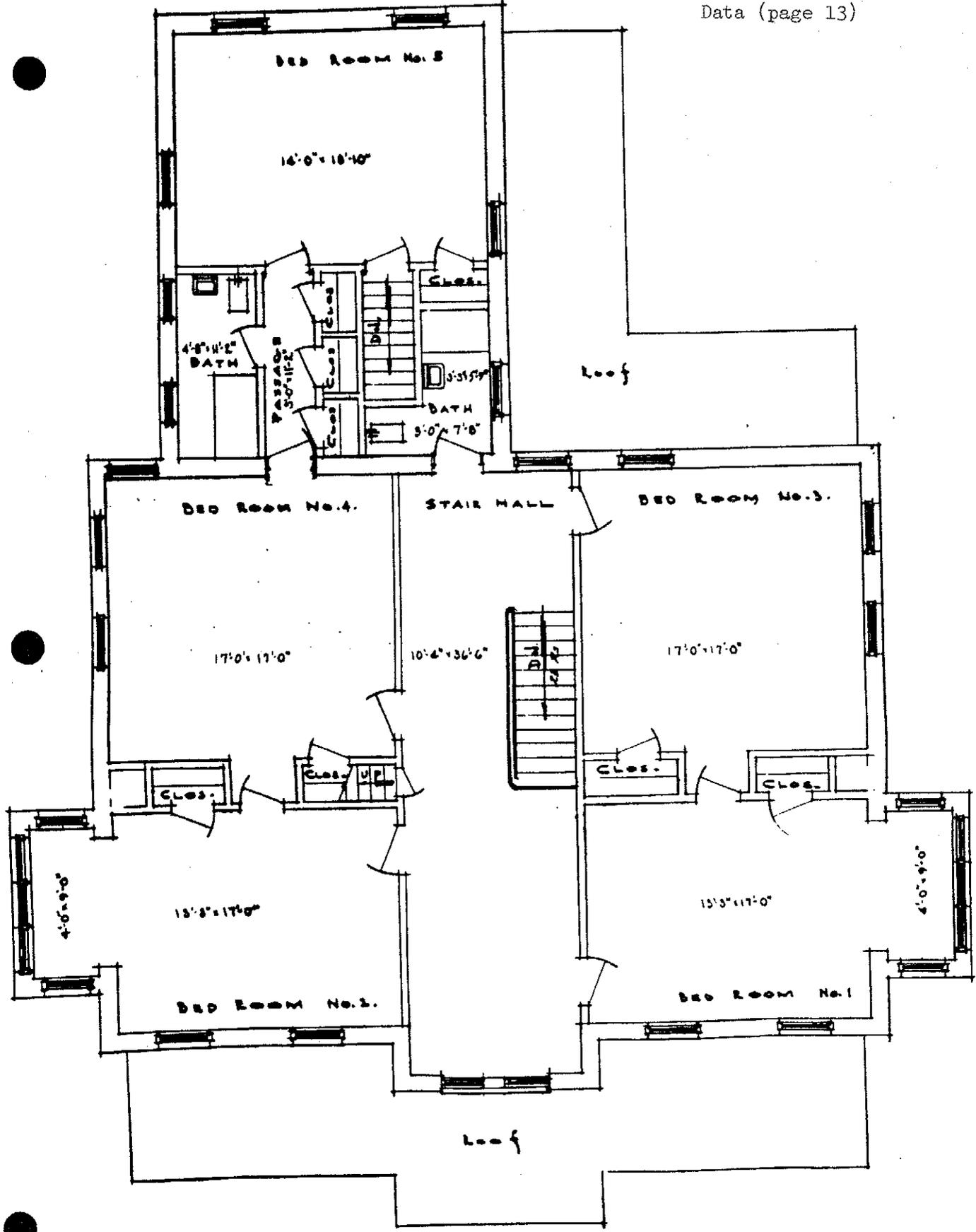
This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service in agreement with the post commander at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C. The project was completed under the general supervision of Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the HABS/HAER Division. Sally Kress Tompkins, Deputy Chief of HABS/HAER, served as Program Coordinator and Robie S. Lange, HABS Historian, as Project Leader. The field Supervisor was James A. Glass (historian, Cornell University); the project historians were Judith E. Hunt (University of Missouri, St. Louis) and Kristie D. Struble (University of Virginia).



**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

2. Second floor plan, undated

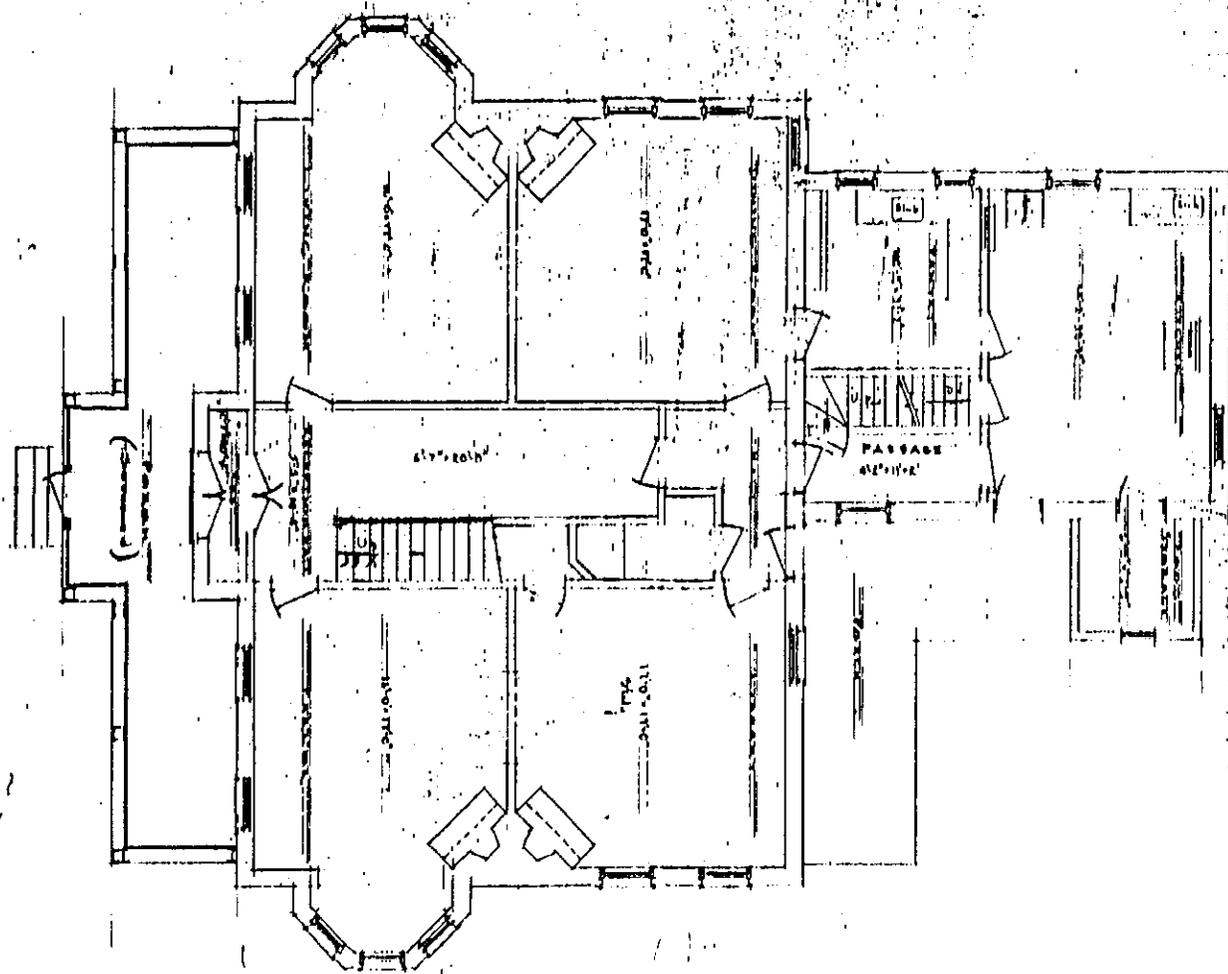
Fort Leavenworth, Building # 6  
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**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

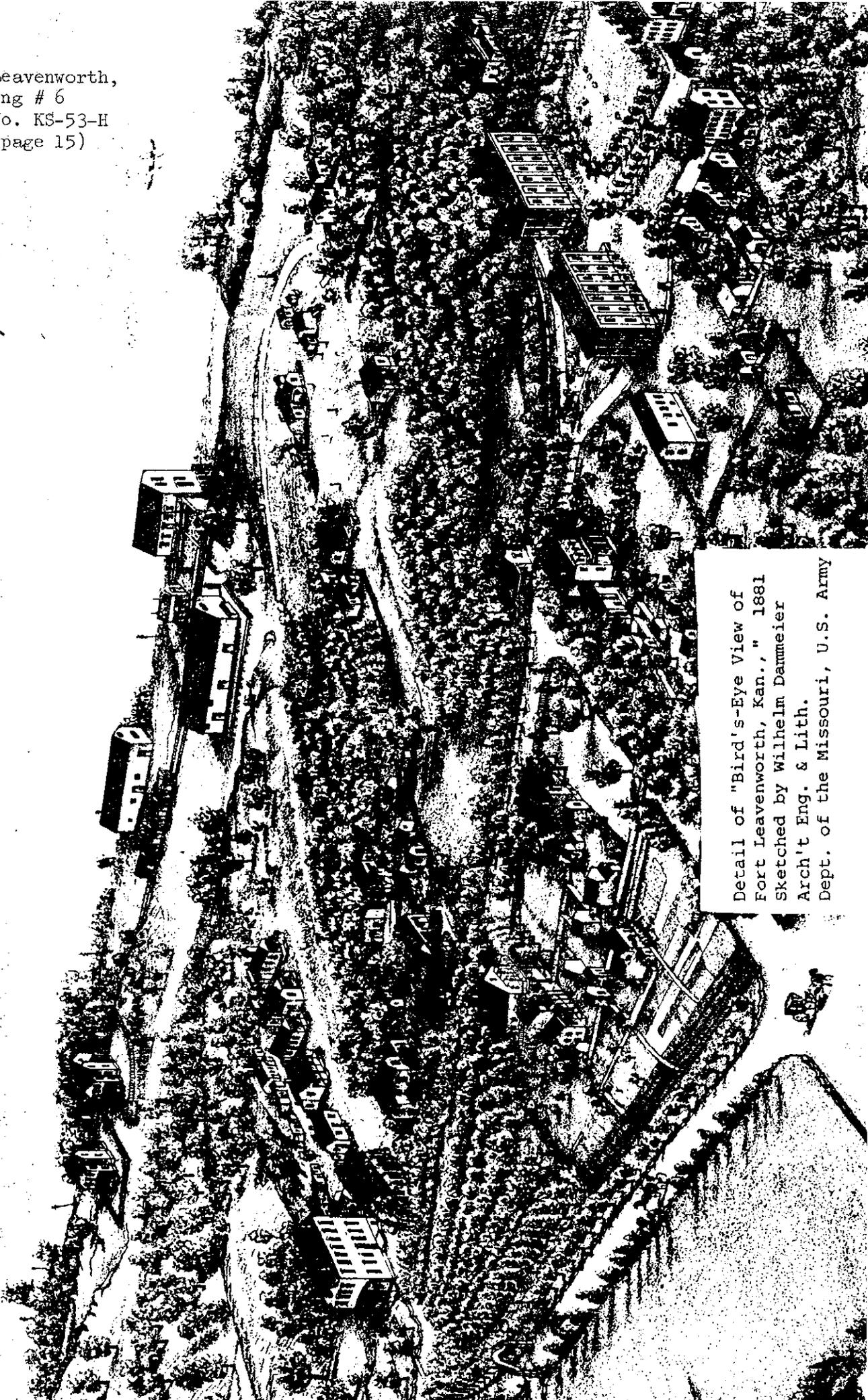
**BLDG. NO. 6**

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



BUILDING NO. 6	
POST ENGINEER'S OFFICE	
D.A. NO. 100-6	
NO. 1	NO. 2
NO. 3	NO. 4
NO. 5	NO. 6
NO. 7	NO. 8
NO. 9	NO. 10
NO. 11	NO. 12
NO. 13	NO. 14
NO. 15	NO. 16
NO. 17	NO. 18
NO. 19	NO. 20
NO. 21	NO. 22
NO. 23	NO. 24
NO. 25	NO. 26
NO. 27	NO. 28
NO. 29	NO. 30
NO. 31	NO. 32
NO. 33	NO. 34
NO. 35	NO. 36
NO. 37	NO. 38
NO. 39	NO. 40
NO. 41	NO. 42
NO. 43	NO. 44
NO. 45	NO. 46
NO. 47	NO. 48
NO. 49	NO. 50
NO. 51	NO. 52
NO. 53	NO. 54
NO. 55	NO. 56
NO. 57	NO. 58
NO. 59	NO. 60
NO. 61	NO. 62
NO. 63	NO. 64
NO. 65	NO. 66
NO. 67	NO. 68
NO. 69	NO. 70
NO. 71	NO. 72
NO. 73	NO. 74
NO. 75	NO. 76
NO. 77	NO. 78
NO. 79	NO. 80
NO. 81	NO. 82
NO. 83	NO. 84
NO. 85	NO. 86
NO. 87	NO. 88
NO. 89	NO. 90
NO. 91	NO. 92
NO. 93	NO. 94
NO. 95	NO. 96
NO. 97	NO. 98
NO. 99	NO. 100

4. Fort Leavenworth,  
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Detail of "Bird's-Eye View of  
Fort Leavenworth, Kan.," 1881  
Sketched by Wilhelm Dammeier  
Arch't Eng. & Lith.  
Dept. of the Missouri, U.S. Army